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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.:
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10/669,211

09/23/2003

Ernest C. Chen

PD-200218

2148

20991 7590 07/09/2007

THE DIRECTV GROUP INC
PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION RE/R11/A109
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EXAMINER

NGO, CHUONG D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2193

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/09/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/669,211

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Chuong D. Ngo

Art Unit

2193

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-10,12 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In particular, the specification does not provide support for the limitations “scrambling said set of uniformly spaced samples” recited in claim 1, line 7, and similarly recited in claim 12; and the limitation “a third component for reducing said total number of samples needed to achieve a given to statistical accuracy” re cited in claim 17, lines 6-7.

Relative to applicant’s remark, it is respectfully submitted that paragraphs [0003], [0025], [0026] and figure 3 does not disclose any act of scrambling the set of uniformly spaced samples. They only disclose the non-uniform spaced samples after mapping are scrambled. Further, the function of companding as is to increase the number of samples in some places while decrease the numbers of samples of order places. The specification does not disclose the companding function is for reducing the total number of samples as recited in claim 17.

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2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 1, the recitation “scrambling said set of uniformly spaced samples”, line 7, appear misdescriptive as not supported by the specification; claim 12 also has a similar problem. Further, the claim appears incomplete since it is directed to a method for generating a set of random numbers with statistics represented by a cumulative density function, but the invention as claimed only provide intermediate results that are the result of mapping the uniformly spaced samples and the result of scrambling the uniformly spaced samples. Thus, it is unclear from the claim how the set of random number is generated; this problem is also found in claims 11 and 17.

As per claim 7, the recitation “companding said uniformly spaced samples” is contrary to the recitations “mapping each one of said set of uniformly spaced samples” in claim 1.

As per claim 11, it is unclear what it means by the recitation “uniformly stepping said set of discrete samples ...”, line 5-6. Further, “said set of random numbers”, line 7, lack a proper antecedent basis.

As per claim 17, “said generated random number”, line 4 lacks a proper antecedent basis. Further, in line 5, it is unclear as to what is scrambled.

As per claim 19, the recitation in the claims appears misdescriptive as if the number of low probability samples is decreased and the numbers of high probability samples is increased.

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3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-16 are directed to a computer implemented method of calculation and manipulation of data. Claims 17-20 are directed to a system for implementing the method. In order for a claimed invention that is directed to such a computer implemented method or system of calculation to be statutory, the claimed invention must accomplish a practical application. That is the claimed invention must transform an article or physical object to a different state or thing, or produce a useful, concrete and tangible result. State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Also see “Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility”, OG Notices: 22 November 2005. It is clear from claims 1-20 that the claims merely involve calculations and manipulations of data in performing computations to generate a set of numbers. The claimed invention does not transform an article or physical object to a different state or thing. Further, the result of the invention is merely a set of numerical values without a practical application recited in the claims that make the result useful, concrete and tangible. Therefore, the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as the claims fail to accomplish a practical application. Further, since the claims appears to cover every substantial practical application, it is directed to a preemption of the claimed calculation and manipulation of data.

Relative applicant’s remark, it should noted that the amendments to the claims to recite a

computer-based method or a computer-based system do not cause invention to produce a useful, concrete and tangible result since the result produced by the claimed invention is still a mere set of numbers without a real world value. Therefore, the amendments fail to render the claims statutory.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuong D. Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3731. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Chuong D Ngo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2193

06/26/2007